HOUSING MARKET INFORMATION

RENTAL MARKET REPORT

Prince Edward Island Highlights*

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

Date Released: Spring 2013

Figure 1

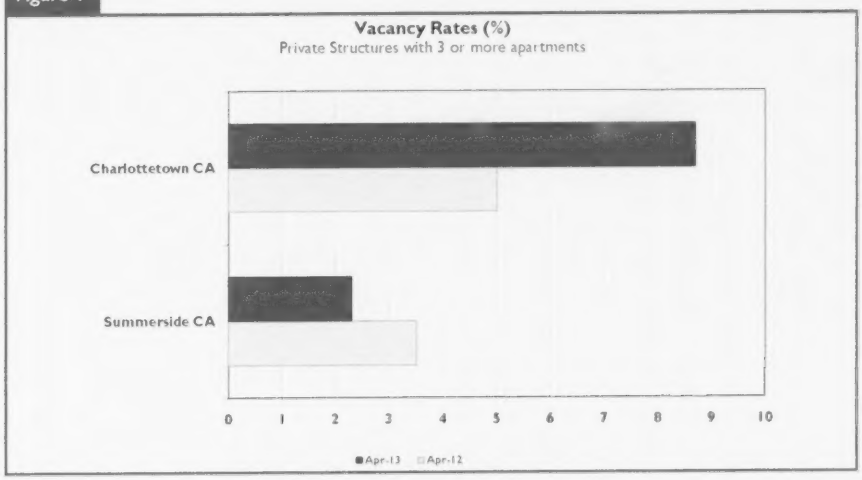
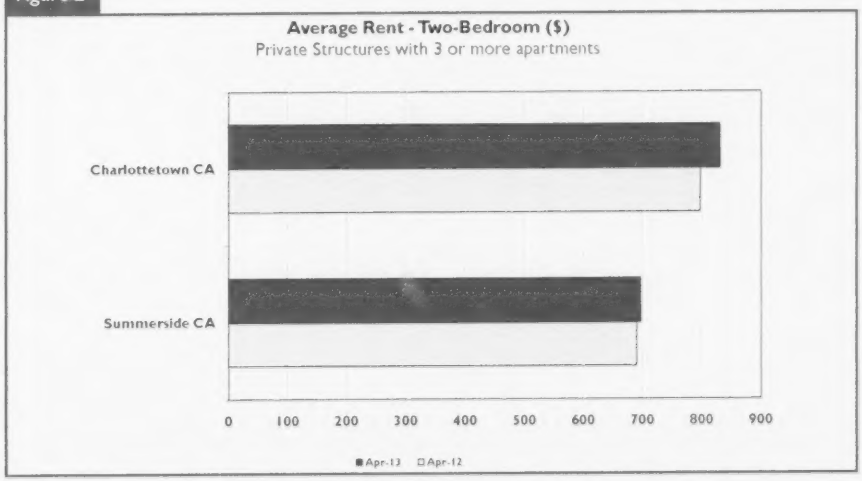


Figure 2



Island Vacancy Rates Rise in 2013

- The overall vacancy rate in Prince Edward Island's urban centres rose to 7.8 per cent in April 2013 from 4.8 per cent in April 2012.
- At 8.7 per cent, the Charlottetown area posted a higher vacancy rate than the provincial average.
- The average two-bedroom rent in Charlottetown was $831, compared to the provincial average of $808.

* Only centres with a population of 10,000 + are included in the survey.

Canada

25 years of housing market intelligence you can count on

CMHC SCHL
HOME TO CANADIANS

Overview

Results from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2013 Spring Rental Market Survey[1] revealed that the vacancy rate for provincial urban centres[2] rose to 7.8 per cent in April 2013 compared to 4.8 per cent last year. Individual results for Charlottetown and Summerside were mixed.

The increase in supply of new rental units in the Charlottetown area has more than offset the increase in demand. During the past twelve months, local developers have added close to 290 new rental units to the market which is well above the ten-year annual average of 119 new units. As such, the vacancy rate in Charlottetown remained high in 2013 at 8.7 per cent.

In Summerside[3], the level of construction of new rental projects slowed in 2012, after two years of above average construction. With the limited amount of new construction and steady demand, the vacancy rate remained statistically unchanged at 2.3 per cent in April 2013.

As in many rental markets, two-bedroom units account for the vast majority of rental apartment units in the urban centres of Prince Edward Island. In Charlottetown, the vacancy rate for two-bedroom units increased to 9.1 per cent in April 2013 compared to 5.4 per cent last year. In Summerside, the vacancy rate for two-bedroom units remained statistically unchanged from the previous year at 2.5 per cent.

The overall average rent in the Charlottetown area was $785, while the average two-bedroom rent was $831 in April 2013. In Summerside, the overall average rent was $678 compared to the two-bedroom average of $697.

This year's overall average rent increased 1.0 per cent based on structures common to both the 2012 and 2013 spring surveys[4]. The Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC), which manage residential rental increases, allowed increases of 5.0 per cent and 3.0 per cent for heated and unheated units, respectively, during 2013. The increase of 1.0 per cent which was below the amount allowed by IRAC, was the result of strong competition for tenants, created by the above average level of new rental construction.

The availability rate for the urban centres in Prince Edward Island was at 9.3 per cent in April 2013. At 2.7 per cent, Summerside posted a lower availability rate than the provincial average, while Charlottetown posted a higher rate at 10.7 per cent.

[1] Based on privately-initiated rental apartments structures of three or more units.

[2] Urban centres are defined as centres with a population of over 10,000. Census metropolitan areas (CMA) are based on Statistics Canada definition.

[3] Summerside represents 15 per cent of the rental market in provincial urban centres.

[4] When comparing year-over-year average rents, the age of the building needs to be taken into consideration because rents in newly-built structures tend to be higher than in existing buildings. By comparing rents for units that are common to both 2012 and 2013 Spring rental market surveys, we can get a better indication of actual rent increases paid by most tenants.

Prince Edward Island Apartment Vacancy Rates

1.1.1 Private Apartment Vacancy Rates (%) by Bedroom Type Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13
Charlottetown CA	**	**	4.9	6.9	5.4	9.1	**	**	5.0	8.7
Summerside CA	**	**	**	**	3.7	2.5	0.0	**	3.5	2.3
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**	**	**4.9**	**6.5**	**5.1**	**8.0**	**	**	**4.8**	**7.8**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a - Excellent, b - Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

1.1.2 Private Apartment Average Rents ($) by Bedroom Type Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13
Charlottetown CA	487	496	641	651	797	831	932	980	755	785
Summerside CA	512	519	522	527	690	697	705	712	669	678
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**489**	**499**	**632**	**642**	**778**	**808**	**869**	**904**	**741**	**769**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates (cv = coefficient of variation):
a - Excellent ($0 \leq cv \leq 2.5$), b - Very good ($2.5 < cv \leq 5$), c - Good ($5 < cv \leq 7.5$), d - Fair (Use with Caution) ($7.5 < cv \leq 10$)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

1.1.3 Number of Private Apartment Units in the Universe by Bedroom Type Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13
Charlottetown CA	150	150	1,142	1,183	2,767	2,957	235	237	4,294	4,527
Summerside CA	11	11	150	151	541	555	78	80	780	797
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**161**	**161**	**1,292**	**1,334**	**3,308**	**3,512**	**313**	**317**	**5,074**	**5,324**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

1.1.4 Private Apartment Availability Rates (%) by Bedroom Type Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-12	Apr-13
Charlottetown CA	**	**	5.7 c	8.9 c	6.9 c	10.7 c	4.9 d	**	6.4 c	10.6 c
Summerside CA	**	**	**	**	3.7 c	2.7 c	0.0 d	**	3.5 c	2.5 c
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**	**	**5.7** c	**8.4** b	**6.4** b	**9.4** a	**3.6** d	**11.9** d	**5.9** b	**9.3** a

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

1.1.5 Private Apartment Estimate of Percentage Change (%) of Average Rent[1] by Bedroom Type
Prince Edward Island

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Apr-11 to Apr-12	Apr-12 to Apr-13	Apr-11 to Apr-12	Apr-12 to Apr-13	Apr-11 to Apr-12	Apr-12 to Apr-13	Apr-11 to Apr-12	Apr-12 to Apr-13	Apr-11 to Apr-12	Apr-12 to Apr-13
Charlottetown CA	3.7	++	2.7	1.0	2.5	1.2	++	**	2.8	1.2
Summerside CA	2.8	1.3	++	**	1.5	++	++	++	1.5	++
Prince Edward Island 10,000+	**3.5**	**++**	**2.4**	**1.1**	**2.3**	**1.0**	**++**	**2.5**	**2.6**	**1.0**

[1]The Percentage Change of Average Rent is a measure of the market movement, and is based on those structures that were common to the survey sample for both years.

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a - Excellent, b- Very good, c - Good, d - Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data not statistically reliable.
++ Change in rent is not statistically significant. This means that the change in rent is not statistically different than zero (0).
n/u: No units exist in the universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix link for more details

TECHNICAL NOTE:

Difference between Percentage Change of Average Rents (Existing and New Structures) AND Percentage Change of Average Rents from Fixed Sample (Existing Structures Only):

Percentage Change of Average Rents (New and Existing Structures): The increase/decrease obtained from the calculation of percentage change of average rents between two years (example: $500 in the previous year vs. $550 in current survey represents an increase of 10 percent) is impacted by changes in the composition of the rental universe (e.g. the inclusion of newly built luxury rental buildings in the survey, rental units renovated/upgraded or changing tenants could put upward pressure on average rents in comparison to the previous year) as well as by the rent level movement (e.g. increase/decrease in the level of rents that landlords charge their tenants).

Percentage Change of Average Rents from Fixed Sample (Existing Structures Only): This is a measure that estimates the rent level movement. The estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample for both the previous year and the current Rental Market Surveys. However, some composition effects still remain e.g. rental units renovated/upgraded or changing tenants because the survey does not collect data to such level of details.

METHODOLOGY FOR RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts the **Rental Market Survey** (RMS) every year in April and October to estimate the relative strengths in the rental market. The survey is conducted on a sample basis in all urban areas with populations of 10,000 and more. The survey targets only privately initiated structures with at least three rental units, which have been on the market for at least three months. The survey collects market rent, available and vacant unit data for all sampled structures.
The survey is conducted by a combination of telephone interviews and site visits, and information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent. The survey is conducted during the first two weeks of April/October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC's Rental Market Survey provides a snapshot of vacancy and availability rates, and average rents in both new and existing structures. There also exists a measure for the change in rent that is calculated based on existing structures only. The estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample for both the previous year and the current Rental Market Surveys. The change in rent in existing structures is an estimate of the change in rent that the landlords charge and removes compositional effects on the rent level movement due to new buildings, conversions, and survey sample rotation. The estimate of per cent change in rent is available in all Canada and Provincial Highlights publications, and also in the CMA reports (fall survey only). The rent levels in new and existing structures are also published. While the per cent change in rents in existing structures published in the reports are statistically significant, changes in rents that one might calculate based on rent levels in new and existing structures may or may not be statistically significant.

DEFINITIONS

Availability: A rental unit is considered available if the existing tenant has given, or has received, notice to move, and a new tenant has not signed a lease; or the unit is vacant (see definition of vacancy below).

Rent: The rent refers to the actual amount tenants pay for their unit. No adjustments are made for the inclusion or exclusion of amenities and services such as heat, hydro, parking, and hot water. For available and vacant units, the rent is the amount the owner is asking for the unit.

It should be noted that the average rents reported in this publication provide a sound indication of the amounts paid by unit size and geographical sector. Utilities such as heating, electricity and hot water may or may not be included in the rent.

Rental Apartment Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, of which at least one unit is not ground oriented. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count.

Rental Row (Townhouse) Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, all of which are ground oriented with vertical divisions. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count. These row units in some centres are commonly referred to as townhouses.

Vacancy: A unit is considered vacant if, at the time of the survey, it is physically unoccupied and available for immediate rental.

Definitions of Census Areas referred to in this publication are as follows:

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core). The census population count of the urban core is at least 10,000 to form a census agglomeration and at least 100,000 to form a census metropolitan area. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data. CMAs and CAs contain whole municipalities or Census Subdivisions.

Data presented in this publication is based on Statistics Canada's 2011 Census area definitions.

Acknowledgement

The Rental Market Survey could not have been conducted without the cooperation of the rental property owners, managers, and building superintendents throughout Canada. CMHC acknowledges their hard work and assistance in providing timely and accurate information. As a result of their contribution, CMHC is able to provide information that benefits the entire housing industry.

CMHC—HOME TO CANADIANS

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for more than 65 years.

Together with other housing stakeholders, we help ensure that the Canadian housing system remains one of the best in the world. We are committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, environmentally sustainable and affordable housing solutions that will continue to create vibrant and healthy communities and cities across the country.

For more information, visit our website at www.cmhc.ca or follow us on Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

You can also reach us by phone at 1-800-668-2642 or by fax at 1-800-245-9274.
Outside Canada call 613-748-2003 or fax to 613-748-2016.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation supports the Government of Canada policy on access to information for people with disabilities. If you wish to obtain this publication in alternative formats, call 1-800-668-2642.

The Market Analysis Centre's (MAC) electronic suite of national standardized products is available for free on CMHC's website. You can view, print, download or subscribe to future editions and get market information e-mailed automatically to you the same day it is released. It's quick and convenient! Go to www.cmhc.ca/housingmarketinformation

For more information on MAC and the wealth of housing market information available to you, visit us today at www.cmhc.ca/housingmarketinformation

To subscribe to priced, printed editions of MAC publications, call 1-800-668-2642.

©2013 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. All rights reserved. CMHC grants reasonable rights of use of this publication's content solely for personal, corporate or public policy research, and educational purposes. This permission consists of the right to use the content for general reference purposes in written analyses and in the reporting of results, conclusions, and forecasts including the citation of limited amounts of supporting data extracted from this publication. Reasonable and limited rights of use are also permitted in commercial publications subject to the above criteria, and CMHC's right to request that such use be discontinued for any reason.

Any use of the publication's content must include the source of the information, including statistical data, acknowledged as follows:

Source: CMHC (or "Adapted from CMHC," if appropriate), name of product, year and date of publication issue.

Other than as outlined above, the content of the publication cannot be reproduced or transmitted to any person or, if acquired by an organization, to users outside the organization. Placing the publication, in whole or part, on a website accessible to the public or on any website accessible to persons not directly employed by the organization is not permitted. To use the content of any CMHC Market Analysis publication for any purpose other than the general reference purposes set out above or to request permission to reproduce large portions of, or entire CMHC Market Analysis publications, please contact: the Canadian Housing Information Centre (CHIC) at chic@cmhc.ca; 613-748-2367 or 1-800-668-2642.

For permission, please provide CHIC with the following information:
Publication's name, year and date of issue.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, no portion of the content may be translated from English or French into any other language without the prior written permission of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The information, analyses and opinions contained in this publication are based on various sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The information, analyses and opinions shall not be taken as representations for which Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation or any of its employees shall incur responsibility.

Housing market intelligence you can count on

25 years ans

FREE REPORTS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

- Canadian Housing Statistics
- Housing Information Monthly
- Housing Market Outlook, Canada
- Housing Market Outlook, Highlight Reports – Canada and Regional
- Housing Market Outlook, Major Centres
- Housing Market Tables: Selected South Central Ontario Centres
- Housing Now, Canada
- Housing Now, Major Centres
- Housing Now, Regional
- Monthly Housing Statistics
- Northern Housing Outlook Report
- Preliminary Housing Start Data
- Rental Market Provincial Highlight Reports
- Rental Market Reports, Major Centres
- Rental Market Statistics
- Residential Construction Digest, Prairie Centres
- Seniors' Housing Reports

Get the market intelligence you need today!

Click www.cmhc.ca/housingmarketinformation to view, download or subscribe.

On June 1, 2012, CMHC's Market Analysis Centre turned 25!

CMHC's Market Analysis Centre has a strong history as the Canadian housing industry's "go-to" resource for the most reliable, impartial and up-to-date housing market data analysis and forecasts, in the country.

CMHC's Market Analysis Centre e-reports provide a wealth of detailed local, provincial, regional and national market information.

- **Forecasts and Analysis –** Future-oriented information about local, regional and national housing trends.
- **Statistics and Data –** Information on current housing market activities – starts, rents, vacancy rates and much more.

Affordable Housing Web Forums

CMHC's Affordable Housing Web Forums are distance-learning seminars that bring interested participants and industry experts together using phone and web technology. You can participate, listen, see and learn without the expense of travelling.

Register on-line!

www.cmhc.ca/ahc

64511_2013_B01

17 04 13